

Meeting Date: March 18, 2021

Agenda Item No. 9

**Agenda Item: Citizens Shooting Range Grant
Committee Report**

Bureau Chief Approval: PK

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background: At the November 2020 meeting, the Commission was briefed about revisions to the shooting range grant program implemented by House Bill 396 passed by the 2020 Idaho Legislature and supported by the Commission. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0396.pdf>

A key element of House Bill 396 was the charge to the Director to appoint a committee with representation by active recreational shooters to advise the Director about the annual shooting range applications and funding decisions. The application period for the Citizen Shooting Range Grant Advisory Committee (Committee) closed October 30, 2020 and the Department received just over 60 applications. In consultation with the regions, the Director selected an applicant from every region, except Salmon due to lack of applicants. The seat for the Salmon region remains open should there be an interested applicant.

Shooting Range Grant Advisory Committee Members

Richard Gerhard, Panhandle Region

Morgan Drew, Clearwater Region

Lonnie Eads, Southwest Region

John Weston, Magic Valley Region

Richard Cheatum, Southeast Region

Cody Lish, Upper Snake Region

Salmon Region – Vacant

The Committee had an orientation meeting on January 20. They were welcomed by the Director and staff reviewed the legislative history and purpose of the committee. Deputy Attorney General Trever explained open meeting expectations and other legal requirements.

The Committee met again on February 24 in a working meeting to review and discuss the range grant process and the applications submitted to the Department for the FY22 grant cycle. Staff answered many questions about the details of the range grant process and the distinctions of the federal and state funding mechanisms. The Committee provided several follow-up questions about certain applications and staff is collecting the information to better inform the Committee.

Staff is working with the Committee to schedule their next meeting with expectation that the Committee will be formulating recommendations to transmit to the Director. This meeting is anticipated to be held in mid-March.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: House Bill 396 created new authority and policy for the Commission to implement in concert with the Director and staff. Specifically, the Commission is charged with approving Range Grant funding to applicants and the Committee recommendations to the Director, in addition to staff information, will inform the

Director's recommendations for Commission approval. Commission approval will be an action item scheduled for the April, 2021 meeting.

Public Involvement Process: The public had opportunity to be involved with the 2020 Legislature during development and passage H396. The Committee meetings are open to the public to attend. In addition, the public has opportunity to provide input to the Commission about their action to approve range grant funding each year.

Staff Recommendation: Proceed with revisions to the existing shooting range program to implement House Bill 396.

Justification: Implementation of House Bill 396 necessary to comply with new law.